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Amendment and Response To Restriction

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Remarks

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants hereby provisionally elects "Invention III", including at least claims 45-55, with traverse.

Applicant's submit that all of claims 1-14 and 45-62, as amended, are directed to a single invention. In particular, all of independent claims 1, 7, 45 and 56 are each directed to an "automated stator winding method". Claims 7, 45 and 56 have been amended to expressly recite that certain steps are performed by automated machinery. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that none of the claims can be construed to cover a method that is "operator intensive."

All pending claims are directed to the same invention, namely an automated stator winding method using a transport pallet with a winding pallet thereon and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet. The winding pallet is separated from the transport pallet and moved into a winding position, a winding operation is performed at the winding position and then the winding pallet is placed back on the transport pallet. The only distinction between the various sets of claims identified by the examiner is the relative breadth of the claims. Applicant has presented only four independent claims, each of varying breadth, and is merely seeking examination of these claims of varying scope, which is no more than standard practice in prosecuting an application for a given invention.

Regarding the various assertions of "separate utility" made in the action, applicants respectfully submit that "remotely located winding operation" as between claim 1 and claim 7 has little or no meaning. Remotely located from what? Applicants further submit that "remotely located stator part assembly" also has little or no meaning. Moreover, as previously indicated, all claims are directed to stator winding, which is a step used in connection with "stator part assembly" and/or "stator part manufacturing." The action does not satisfactorily demonstrate any separate utility as between the asserted claim groups. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

Conclusion

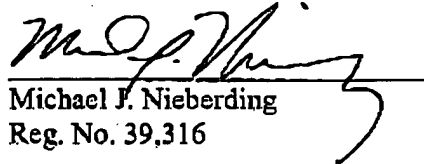
Based upon the foregoing, applicants respectfully request examination of all of claims 1-14 and 45-62. Further, in the event the restriction requirement is maintained, there can be no doubt that at least claims 1-14 should be found allowable if claim 45 is found allowable.

If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amended Claims - Marked up Version

1(Once Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
- (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon along a conveyor in a substantially horizontal first direction to an input side of a winding station;
- (c) raising the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon above the conveyor;
- (d) holding the winding pallet in place as the transport pallet is lowered so as to separate the winding pallet from the transport pallet;
- (e) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction and into a first pivot arm;
- (f) pivoting the winding pallet through substantially ninety degrees to a first position alongside a winding position;
- (g) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction out of the first pivot arm and into the winding position;
- (h) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
- (i) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction into a second position alongside the winding position and into a second pivot arm;
- (j) pivoting the winding pallet through substantially ninety degrees to a position above the conveyor;
- (k) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction out of the second pivot arm and into a pallet combining position and holding the winding pallet in the pallet combining position;
- (l) laterally moving the transport pallet along the conveyor into a position below the pallet combining position;
- (m) raising the transport pallet up into contact with the winding pallet;
- (n) releasing the winding pallet so as to rest upon the transport pallet; and
- (o) lowering the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon back onto the conveyor.

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7(Once Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
 - (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to an input side of a winding station;
 - (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
 - (d) pivoting the winding pallet into a first position alongside a winding position;
 - (e) laterally moving the winding pallet into the winding position;
 - (f) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
 - (g) laterally moving the winding pallet into a second position alongside the winding position;
 - (h) pivoting the winding pallet away from the second position and into a third position; and
 - (i) placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
- wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) are performed by automated machinery.

45(Once Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
 - (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to a winding station;
 - (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
 - (d) moving the winding pallet into a winding position;
 - (e) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
 - (f) after step (e), placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
- wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are performed by automated machinery.

56(Once Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:

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(a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;

(b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;

[(d)]c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;

(d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;

(e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;

wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.

57(Once Amended). The method of claim 56 wherein step [(d)]c) involves first moving the separated winding pallet to a position alongside the winding position and then moving the separated winding pallet laterally into the winding position.

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